

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /109 W

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R 211346 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8174

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 2033

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS SF MZ

SUBJECT: SAG DENIES SA TROOPS IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTED JUNE 20 THAT MARCELINO DOS SANTOS, VICE PRESIDENT OF FRELIMO, CLAIMED IN LONDON JUNE 19 THAT THREE BATTALIONS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WERE FIGHTING IN NORTHERN TETE PROVINCE OF MOZAMBIQUE. DOS SANTOS SAID SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES WERE MAINLY IN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AROUND CABORA BASSA DAM.

2. ON JUNE 20 SAG MINISTER OF DEFENSE P. W. BOTHA DENIED DOS SANTOS' CLAIM, STATING: " IF ALL HIS STATEMENTS ARE AS DEVOID OF TRUTH AS THIS ONE, THEN IT IS RATHER DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE ANYTHING HE SAYS."

3. COMMENT: OUR INFORMATION, BASED ON MILITARY
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AND POLICE SOURCES, IS THAT PRESENCE OF ANY SIZEABLE
NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE TROOPS OR SA
POLICEMEN IN MOZAMBIQUE VIRTUALLY OUT OF QUESTION.
SADF HAS ONE OFFICER ASSIGNED MOZAMBIQUE FOR LIAISON
PURPOSES AND OTHER OFFICERS TRAVEL TO AND FROM THERE
FROM TIME TO TIME. PLACEMENT OF LARGE CONTINGENT OF
SADF TROOPS WOULD REQUIRE USE OF CIVILIAN CONSCRIPT
TRAINEES OR MOBILIZATION OF RESERVES. EITHER CIRCUM-
STANCE WOULD BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE. MOREOVER, WE
BELIEVE SAG HAS NO INTENTION AT THIS TIME OF TAKING
MOMENTOUS STEP TO COMMIT MILITARY OR POLICE FORCES
TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE PORTUGUESE IN MOZAMBIQUE.
HURD

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: MOPS, MZ, SF
To: AF
CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM
DURBAN
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